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ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

Public Health & Sanitary Condition

OF THE

Urban District of Linslade

FOR THE YEAR

1946

BY

M. C. ROTHCOPE

Medical Officer of Health



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Urban District Council OF Linslade

To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Linslade

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year 1946.

The population of the district is estimated at 3,000 (1931 census 2,433) and the area 1,693 acres.

The district is mainly residential in character. There are two fairly large factories, one engaged in the manufacture of felt hoods, and the other foundry equipment. These two factories employ 90 and 150 hands respectively.

STAFF

The staff consists of myself, M. C. Rothcope, Medical Officer of Health (part time), and Mr. C. Laidman, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector. Mr. Laidman commenced his appointment with your Council in June, 1946, on the retirement of Mr. H. A. Rolls, who had been your part-time Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector for 23 years.

VITAL STATISTICS

Birth Rate

The total number of births registered in the Linslade Urban District for the year 1946 was 30, 13 males and 17 females, giving a birth rate of 10 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as against 19.1 for England and Wales.

Death Rate

The number of deaths registered as occurring during the year 1946 was 29, to this figure must be added 11 deaths of residents which occurred outside the district, giving a total of 40, equivalent to ^{13.3}~~7.5~~ per 1,000 of the estimated population against 11.5 per 1,000 for England and Wales. 33 of the 40 deaths occurred in persons over the age of 65.

	1945	1946
Birth Rate ...	6.3	10
Death Rate ...	10.6 13.3	7.5 13.3

A detailed list showing causes of death is given on page 2.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE LINSLADE URBAN DISTRICT

1946

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District.								
	All Ages	Under 1 Year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards
All causes	40	2	...	...	...	...	1	4	33
Enteric Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small Pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rheumatic Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other tuberculous diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer (malignant disease)	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	5
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Organic Heart Disease	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Bronchitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Diarrhœa and Enteritis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Diabetes ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Cerebral Hæmorrhage... ..	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Arterio-sclerosis	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Puerperal Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Accidents & Diseases of Pregnancy & Parturition... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Suicide ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other defined Diseases	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases ill-defined or unknown ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Old Age	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Accidents ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	40	2	...	...	...	...	1	4	33

ZYMOTIC DISEASES

Two cases of chicken pox; seven cases of pneumonia; two cases of whooping cough; three cases of measles, and five cases of scarlet fever were notified.

TUBERCULOSIS

One case of Tuberculosis was notified.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Number of children immunised during 1946: Under 5 years, 20; over 5 and under 15, nil; re-inforcing injections, 17.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

The Luton Corporation Pathological Department provide all facilities for the chemical and bacteriological examination of clinical material, water, milk and other foodstuffs.

Ambulance Facilities

An Infectious Disease Ambulance is provided by the North Bucks Joint Hospital Board and is garaged at Linslade.

Nursing in the Home

Nursing in the patient's home is carried out, if the patient is a subscriber to the District Nursing Association, by the District Nurse. There is no other home nursing scheme.

Midwifery

Confinements are conducted *either* in the patient's home:

- 1 The District Nurse alone (see above);
 - 2 The District Nurse together with the patient's doctor.
- or in Hospital or Nursing Home.

In either case Ante- and Post-Natal Examinations are made by the Doctor.

Sanatoria

There is great delay in obtaining admission of Tuberculosis Cases to Sanatoria. In many cases the patient has disadvantageously to be nursed at home.

Infectious Diseases

Cases of Infectious Diseases are removed to the North Bucks Joint Isolation Hospital, the hospital is at Grove in the Rural District of Wing and is 2 miles from Linslade.

Orthopaedic Treatment

Orthopaedic cases are referred to hospital.

I am, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

M. C. ROTHCOPE,

Medical Officer of Health.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1946

Disease	Number of Cases Notified.										Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths
	At all Ages.	Under 1 yr.	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 45	45 to 65	65 & Upwards				
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	5	..	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...
Enteric Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia (all forms)	7	1	1	...	...	...	2	3	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomylitis .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken Pox	2	..	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	3	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	19	3	7	4	...	...	2	3	...	...	5	...

CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFIED IN THE URBAN
DISTRICT OF LINSLADE DURING 1946

Age-Periods.					New Cases.				Deaths.			
					Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
					M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	..	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

LINSLADE URBAN COUNCIL

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1946

Nett Deaths from stated Causes as various ages under One Year

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1—2 weeks.	2—4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1—3 months.	3—6 months.	6—9 months.	9—12 months	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes { Certified
{ Uncertified
{ Small-pox
{ Chicken-pox
{ Measles
{ Scarlet Fever
{ Whooping Cough
{ Diphtheria and Croup
Erysipelas
{ Tuberculous Meningitis
{ Abdominal Tuberculosis
{ Other Tuberculous Diseases
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)
Convulsions
Laryngitis...
Bronchitis
Pneumonia (all forms)
{ Diarrhoea
{ Enteritis
Gastritis
Syphilis
Rickets
Suffocation, overlying
Injury at Birth
Atelectasis
{ Congenital Malformations
{ Premature Birth
{ Atrophy, Debility, and
Marasmus	I	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	2
Purpuric Diathesis	I	...
Violence
Accidental & Other Causes
Totals	I	...	...	J	...	..	...	I	2

Nett Births in the Year—Legitimate 29
 Illegitimate 1

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR & SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1946

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

No slaughter houses are in use in the Urban District. Animals for human consumption are slaughtered at the central slaughter house, which is situated in the adjoining Urban District of Leighton Buzzard.

Regular inspection of retail shops is made and, during the year 1946, 26 condemnation notes in respect of unsound food were issued.

MILK SUPPLY

The number of wholesale producers of milk on the register at the end of the year was three, and the number of retail purveyors five. Milk is also retailed in the district by retailers who are registered in the Leighton Buzzard Urban District.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

Water Supply

The town is provided with a main water supply. The Council's pumping station is situated at Soulbury Road and consists of an 18in. diameter borehole, 150ft. deep in the lower green sand. Pumping is by means of an electrically operated Sulzer deep well pump. In the early part of the year the yield from this borehole diminished considerably due to the building up of some 25 feet of sand in the bore tube. Fortunately a second bore hole had been sunk and a temporary supply by means of a submersible pump was taken from this borehole during the shelling out of the No. 1 hole. The removal of the sand accumulation was satisfactorily completed and a supply of 5,000 gallons per hour obtained.

Progress in the installation of the pumping unit in No. 2 borehole has been slow. At the end of the year under review tenders for the pumping machinery and erection of pump house had not been invited.

The question of increasing the storage capacity of the reservoir (at present 100,000 gallons) is one which should receive early consideration, as the existing capacity provides for one day's supply only.

Consideration should also be given to the work of laying a larger diameter rising main. This will be essential when an increased yield is taken from No. 2 borehole.

Sewerage

The sewage disposal works continue, with careful handling, to produce a satisfactory effluent in spite of the fact that theoretically the plant is overloaded.

Minor repairs and adjustments to motors and pumps at the pumping station are all that have been carried out during 1946, but with the population steadily increasing the installation of a duplicate electric motor will, in the near future, have to be considered.

Refuse Collection

Although the old system of collection of house refuse has proved reasonably satisfactory from the point of view of the householder it leaves much to be desired from an economic and administrative standpoint. Accordingly, I submitted a detailed report to your Council in November, 1946, in which I recommended the purchase of a Karrier "Bantam" refuse collecting vehicle and I am pleased to record that your Council agreed to my recommendation and the delivery of the vehicle is now awaited.

HOUSING

No new dwellings were completed during 1946. Licences for the erection by private enterprise of 10 houses were issued. In addition, 3 licences to convert existing buildings into living accommodation, and 1 to convert an existing building into two units of accommodation were issued.

The development of 12 acres of land at Southcott for the erection of 74 council houses was commenced during the year. Contracts for the erection of 30 houses in lots of 22 and 8 respectively were let to two Contractors but progress has been very slow and by the end of the year none of the houses had been completed.

The number of applications for accommodation remaining on your Council's list at the end of the year was 143. A number of these applications are from families living in insanitary and/or overcrowded conditions and a large number from young married couples living with in-laws.

Close attention has been given to powers of requisitioning vacant houses and in October, 1946, Harcourt House was requisitioned and converted into three self-contained flats. In addition, your Council have five other houses under requisition and occupied by deserving cases.

SUMMARY OF WORK OF THE SURVEYOR & SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1946

Licensed Slaughter Houses :—None in use	1
Bakehouses on Register	1
Inspections made	8
Defects found	1
Defects remedied	1
Dairies, Cowsheds, etc.	10
Inspections	19
Defects found	2
Defects remedied	2
Factories and Workshops	21
Inspections	46
Defects found	2
Defects remedied	2
Number of houses erected during year	nil
<i>Housing Consolidated Amendment Regulations, 1932</i>	
(1) Number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation	8
(2) Number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	6
(3) Number of representations made to the local authority with a view to (a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works or (b) the making of demolition or closing orders	2
(4) Number of notices served requiring the execution of works	nil
(5) Number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	nil
(6) Number of demolition or closing orders made	nil
(7) Number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under sub-section (3) of section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	nil
(8) Number of houses demolished	nil
<i>Proceedings under Public Health Acts</i>	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	6
(2) Number of defects remedied	6

G. LAIDMAN,

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

